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The International Week

The Israeli advance to the Gulf of Aqaba is not expected to reverse the present trend toward stabilization in Palestine. Dutch intransigence continues to block a Republican-Netherlands conference to establish an interim federal government in Indonesia. Atlantic Pact negotiations have about reached the stage for public discussion of its terms.

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Soviet penetration of IRO camp in Philippines poses security problem.

Reported inclusion of Soviet agents among the four thousand White Russian refugees recently shipped from Shanghai to the Philippines under IRO auspices reflects the need for more effective IRO screening at the port of embarkation. While the extent of Soviet penetration of the camp on Samar Island is not yet clear, the presence of some minor Soviet agents has been indicated and at least one contact between local pro-USSR elements and suspect refugees has been made. The reluctance of interested IRO members to fulfill their commitments to provide permanent haven for these refugees, the evident hope of many of them to enter the US and the duplication of such conditions at other refugee embarkation ports will probably plague the IRO for some months to come.

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Justifying the Atlantic Pact before the UN. With the Atlantic Pact negotiations approaching their final phase and the public release of the text at hand, world-wide discussion of the pact's relationship to the UN may be taken for granted. It is practically certain not only that the USSR will charge that the pact is aggressive in its purposes and violates alike the letter and spirit of the UN Charter, but also that a large body of non-Communist opinion will share these views. Consequently, the US UN delegation believes that the issue of the Atlantic Pact should be met squarely rather than evaded. It therefore counsels that the five prospective signatories who also sit in the Council themselves initiate Security Council discussions of the pact. No resolution would be introduced but strong and cogent statements would be made stressing the non-aggressive aims of the pact and its harmony with the UN Charter. By this procedure, it is hoped that the USSR would be placed on the defensive. Any condemnatory resolution introduced by the USSR would probably be rejected, 9-2. Inasmuch as a vigorous attack on the pact is assured, the Western Powers would lose nothing by seizing the initiative in airing the issue. By demonstrating that the Charter clearly authorizes such regional arrangements, the signatories of the pact would strengthen their hold on public opinion both here and abroad.

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Arab refugees. While the plight of the Arab refugees becomes increasingly critical, all available UN funds will be exhausted by the end of March. The UN Secretariat has brought this development to the attention of the US and is seeking to ascertain how soon the promised US Congressional appropriation for this purpose will be forthcoming.

✓ Korea may be admitted to ECAFE. Despite bitter opposition of the Soviet bloc, ECOSOC recently amended the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to permit the admission of the Republic of Korea as an associate member should the Commission so decide.

The Mufti again. The UN Palestine Conciliation Commission's invitation to Haj Amin-el-Husseini, ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, to attend the Arab refugee talks at Beirut has drawn a sharp protest from Israel. The Israelis point to the Mufti's record of collaboration with the Nazis and add that he no longer enjoys any prestige even among the Arabs. King Abdullah of Transjordan appears to be almost as incensed at the invitation as are the Israelis.

USSR revives Trieste issue. Despite the failure of its recent attempt to secure the appointment of a Trieste governor, the USSR is again seeking to reopen the subject. If successful, it may propose a zonal division of the Territory as a move in its "peace offensive." Although this is less a gain for the Italians than that proposed by the US, UK and France in 1948, it might prove acceptable both to Rome and to Belgrade.

✓ Creation of ECME deferred. ECOSOC has again deferred approving the creation of an Economic Commission for the Middle East (ECME) until its July session. Although the question of Israeli membership was the primary factor in the postponement, this issue will probably not prevent the formation of ECME after the admission of Israel to the UN, especially if the US program of aid to underdeveloped areas is to be channeled through UN regional commissions.

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